

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 69-106 (as renumbered) are in the case.

I. CLAIM NUMBERING

Upon review of the claims presented in the Preliminary Amendment dated June 13, 2001, it has been noticed that there are two claims numbered "81". In order to correct this, the second claim bearing number "81" has been renumbered "82", and the remaining claims have been numbered consecutively thereafter.

II. ABSTRACT

A new Abstract is presented on a separate sheet attached to this response. The Abstract is based on the text appearing on the front face of the underlying WO 00/15691. No new matter is entered.

III. SPECIFICATION

The specification has been amended to incorporate customary headings, including a brief description of the drawings. No new matter is entered.

IV. THE 35 USC 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH, REJECTION

Claims 69-105 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite for the reasons stated in paragraph 4 on pages 2 and 3 of the

Action. In response, the claims have been amended to improve their form and deal with the outstanding formal objections. The following comments are offered.

Claims 69-71, 97 and 105 have been amended to incorporate a period at the end of each claim. Claim 70 has been amended to incorporate the missing formulae at the end of the claim. These formulae are supported by the disclosure in the first complete paragraph on page 4 of the application. No new matter is entered.

Claim 94 has been amended to refer back to claim 69 rather than claim 1. Claim 97 has been amended to incorporate a definition of the variables A, B, C, and D. No matter is entered.

Claim 96 has been amended to refer to "sulphuric acid". No new matter is entered.

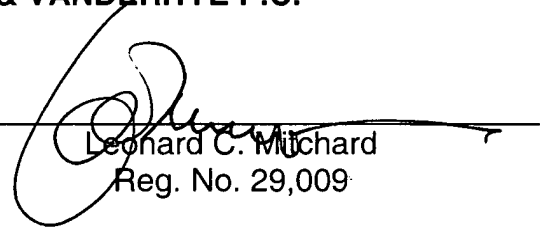
Withdrawal of the outstanding 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejection is now believed to be in order. Such action is respectfully requested.

Allowance of the application is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Ion-Exchange polymers for a polymer electrolyte membrane include a moiety of formula (I), and/or a moiety of formula (II), and/or a moiety of formula (III) wherein at least some of the units I, II and/or III are sulphonated. The phenyl moieties in units I, II, and III are independently optionally substituted and optionally cross-linked; m, r, s, t, v, w and z independently represent zero or a positive integer, E and E' independently represent an oxygen or a sulphur atom or a direct link, G represents an oxygen or sulphur atom, a direct link or a -O-Ph-O- moiety where Ph represents a phenyl group and Ar is selected from one of the moieties (i) to (x) as set forth herein which is bonded via one or more of its phenyl moieties to adjacent moieties.